



**CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201**

**JANUARY 16, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Chris Seher at approximately 7:05 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Rev. Barry Ross, Word of Life Christian Fellowship, Cologne, NJ

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vizthum, Camp, Horton, Cain, Phillips, Ring, Seher

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Henshaw, Jessica Thompson, Jessica Snyder

**PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**

PRESENTATION – Joe Giraldo - CDBG Program

Joe – explained the CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) program – as of April of last year there was \$133,000 of Absecon money that had to be spent. As of January 1, 2014, all monies have been spent or encumbered. He then went through a report he handed out to Council explaining what was spent, where the money comes from, the process and qualifications. Ten homes have been chosen for the money so far.

REPORTS

Sandy – Public Works and Sewer – Snow plowing - city hall, fire dept and ambulance squad will be treated first when there is more than 3 inches. They will pre-treat the roads also if they know it’s coming. When the website is up and running a zone map will be posted for the leaf collection. Reconfiguration of NJ and Highland Blvd. should take 3 months and is scheduled for Spring of this year at no cost to us. Approval should be completed soon for FEMA apps for the Kunkely property and Turner Ave. They will revisit traffic safety issues around town. Next meeting is 2/20 @3:30. She spoke on Res. #34 that is on the agenda tonight dealing with storage tanks and closing them out. The quote is at \$1,500 on the high end.

Jim – Public Safety – Cold weather emergencies were discussed; Crestview Ave. issues with speeding.

Frank – Parks and Playgrounds – have not met yet and will meet on 2/18 at 7 p.m.

Don – Finance met tonight and Glenn Insurance came in and explained our bills and our coverage amounts. We lowered our deductible from \$20,000 to \$10,000 and that will cost us an additional \$2,900. There have been no major claims in 2 years, so this hopefully will work out.

Jessica – this would cover employment practice claims and not auto accidents or similar.

Jim – our rep explained that our town has been lucky for the amount of people we have employed. For this time, we should adjust our figure down and get it more in line with other towns of the same size.

Don - there is a meeting in Hammonton on Jan. 30th at 5:30 p.m. and if council attends, we will receive \$250 towards our insurance. He encouraged everyone to go. We've had 83% attendance.

Tom – discussed Ord. #1 Personnel Longevity – there are 2 bills in the Senate to eliminate this, but he wants to start now. This will freeze longevity for current employees and new employees will not accrue any longevity.

Don - explained Res. #25; 26; 30 and 31. Streets and roads talked about an access road from city hall out to Ambassador Ave. for the police and emergency vehicles to use for when traffic gets backed up on Mill Road.

Mike – Community Affairs – announcing fundraising events the school is having. He explained Res. #24 that is on the agenda for tonight.

Kim – Economic Development – her first meeting will be 2/6 @ 6:30 p.m. Explained Res. #35 and Ord. #2, that deal with the Visions property and go hand-in-hand.

Chris – the plan is to introduce Ord. #2 tonight and have second reading and public hearing will be held after the fairness hearing with the court on March 20th and at our 4/3/14 mtg. The Planning Board has already had their public hearing.

Recommended the resolution reappointing the zoning board members for next meeting.

Tom - thanked Public Works for a good job snow plowing from the last storm we had. Thanked Joe Giraldo for coming tonight. The leaf program is done and if anyone has been missed they can call the Public Works dept.

Chris – the new website will have a leaf pick up schedule to help residents, which will be subject to change due to weather.

Tom - mentioned Res. #27, 28, 29, that deal with the Clerk's office; 32, fills an existing position and 33, amended meeting date of 7/3. Asked for an Executive Session for possible litigation.

Jessica Thompson – auditors have been in the building for the last two weeks and working with staff. Our budget meeting is Thursday, 1/23 @ 6 p.m. The capital budget will be the main topic.

MONTHLY REPORTS – Jessica S.

Tax Collector - \$615,845.05

Clerk - \$2,365.30

Construction - \$4,102.00

Court - \$10,594.71

PUBLIC PORTION – For Agenda Items Only

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Allison Quandt – 523 Fourth St. – asked where the Kunkely property was.

Sandy – explained location and plans for the area

Jim – it's been 4 years coming now. We should have the money this year. It will be for canoes and kayaks only; 40 spaces of parking and a walking trail around the point.

Allison –wanted to know who is responsible of the escrow money.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- 01** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 61 – Personnel, Section 61-1 – Longevity.

Motion for introduction – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

- 02** Amending the Code of the City of Absecon, Chapter 224-Land Use and Development, to provide for the designation of an Inclusionary Village Development Zone and to provide for the regulation of development therein.

Motion for introduction – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

CONSENT AGENDA

- 24** Granting a Raffle License to the Holy Spirit Mother's Guild.
- 25** Authorizing the release of a Maintenance Guarantee posted by Capital Telecom Acquisitions, LLC.
- 26** Authorizing the release of escrows posted by Holiday Inn Express.
- 27** Appointing a Registrar of Vital Statistics, namely Carie A. Crone.
- 28** Appointing a Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, namely Tina M. Lawler.
- 29** Appointing an Alternate Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, namely Jessica A. Snyder.
- 30** Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel year 2013 property tax amounts less than five dollars.
- 31** Authorizing to cancel taxes and refund an overpayment of taxes on the property located at 222 Bayview Drive, (Block 11, Lot 39.01).
- 32** Authorizing the City to advertise for a Part Time Electrical Sub Code Official.
- 33** Amending the 2014 regular council meetings schedule.
- 34** Authorizing the City Engineer's, Remington, Vernick and Walberg to solicit quotes for the project of Abandonment of Groundwater Monitoring Wells, located at 939 Pitney Road.
- 35** Endorsing an amendment to the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan of the City of Absecon and requesting that the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs accept same for filing as adopted by the City of Absecon Planning Board on January 14, 2014.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$ 1,277,330.80

Motion to approve - Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes but abstained from 9476, 9637, 9801, A0001, A0189, C0225, J0033; Seher, yes

Chris – explained he abstained to bills that deal with the fire dept. since he is a member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 12/5/13 and 12/19/13

Special Joint Meeting Minutes – 12/19/13

Re-Organization Meeting Minutes – 1/2/14

Closed Session as to form and content only – 12/5/13 and Special 12/19/13

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor, but abstained from the 2013 meetings.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Chris – would like to get a picture of council at the next meeting. It will be put on our website and ABTV. Don agreed to help.

CLOSED SESSION – Res. #36-2014

Tim – issues to be discussed were:

Vehicles with the Emergency Services falling under contract negotiations and/or litigation and attorney client privilege.

No action will be taken following the meeting.

Motion to enter closed session – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Motion to open meeting – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Tim – we are now back in session and discussed was an issue that has arisen concerning Emergency Services being provided in the City. Also discussed was possible litigation that could ensue based upon the number of scenarios and there will be further investigation concerning this matter. It's now 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Respectfully,

Jessica Snyder, Deputy Clerk

Approved: _____